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Fukuoka City International Foundation

## Spring! A time for new beginnings.

April is the time for new beginnings in Japan, as it marks not only the fiscal new year, but also the beginning of a new school year.

There are few new things; our website has a new look, our pamphlets are updated, new service using the Line app to call us, our newsletter will be issued quarterly (spring, summer, autumn, winter) and new books available at our book corner.

### Our website has a new look and new features.

Our website was published with a new look and new features. We wanted to improve the user experience and make it as seamless as possible.

#### New features:

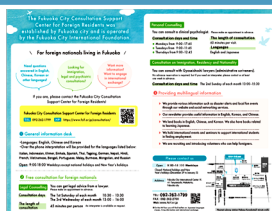
- ◆ It is now possible to fill in the forms online such as legal counselling applications and volunteer registration applications. You can still download the application form and send it by e-mail.
- ◆ The Fukuoka City Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents is now displayed as a banner on the homepage, making it easier to find visually. A toll-free number has been added so you can also contact us on **0120-66-1799** from 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- ◆ Icons have been added showing easily identifiable illustrations, making it easier to find what you are looking for.
- ◆ "Latest News" is now clearly displayed on the front page and is easily accessible.



Please check out our website:  
<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/>

### New Pamphlet

We have published a new pamphlet which introduces our services, activities and support we provide in an easy-to-understand way. It is published in 6 languages, English, Korean, Chinese, Nepali, Vietnamese, and easy Japanese. Our pamphlet is available at the ward office as well as our information desk, and is included in the welcome pack you receive when moving to Fukuoka city. Please check our new pamphlet here:  
<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-consultation/life-interaction/>



Tutor Program is available free of charge. Tutor Program is a living support for foreign nationals in Fukuoka city.

Tutors are volunteers who can help foreign nationals with their daily matters. Tutors answer their questions on their life in Japan.

Please check here for further information: <https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-volunteer-bank/tutorprogram/>



### Our Library

At our book corner, we lend out books related to learning Japanese, multilingual books, and picture books. New books will be coming in, so please come visit us. Registration necessary.



SNS



We have opened an official LINE account. We will send out information such as our events and useful living information via LINE.

You can also call us through LINE, feel free to call us. Multilingual support with telephone interpreter is also available. Check our website for further details. Please note that the chat is not supported. If you would like to send us a message, then please use the contact form from our website:  
<https://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-contact/>



### Japan's Children's Cafeterias / Kodomo Shokudo

Japan's Children's Cafeterias are welcoming places where children can go alone to receive a free or low-cost nutritious meal. They can meet other children who are unable to eat properly due to poverty or children who eat alone because their parents are working.

Although it's a children's cafeteria, it is not only a place for children. In the cafeteria, children, parents and single parents alike gather together to eat, creating a homely environment in the community.

#### How Japan's Children's Cafeterias started?

The children's cafeterias started as a voluntary private initiative managed by local residents and NPOs. The first such establishment is believed to have been launched by a greengrocer in Tokyo in 2012 for children who could not have enough meals, and has since spread throughout the country. Since then, the activities of these Japan's Children's Cafeterias have spread all over Japan, and the number is increasing rapidly and now there are more than 6000 children's cafeterias opened all over Japan.

#### How much for the meals?

The meal is free or about 100 yen (about 100 to 500 yen for adults), and it is commonly held once or twice a month on a Saturday or Sunday. In addition to providing meals, many children's cafeterias provide children with various activities such as homework support, play time with toys, seasonal events, and storytelling.

#### Children's cafeterias in Fukuoka city

There are more than 50 children's cafeterias in Fukuoka city (as reported by Fukuoka City and Fukuoka City Social Welfare Council on March 3rd 2021).

You can check the Children's cafeterias in each ward on the Fukuoka City Social Welfare Council website:

[https://fukuoka-shakyo.or.jp/service/parenting/20210324\\_9.html](https://fukuoka-shakyo.or.jp/service/parenting/20210324_9.html)



### From April 1, 2022, 18-year-olds will become adults!

In Japan, due to the revision of the Civil Code, the coming of age will change from 20 years old to 18 years old from April 1, 2022. It is the first time in about 140 years since the Meiji era, that the coming of age has changed. As a result, those who are 18 and 19 years old will become new adults on April 1, 2022.

What will this revision change?

Here is a list of things which will change or remain the same due to the revision of the age of adulthood.

#### What people will be permitted to do upon turning 18

- ◆ Without parental or guardian consent, 18-year-olds can sign up for a credit card, purchase a mobile phone, sign an apartment lease, etc.
- ◆ Obtain national qualifications such as Certified Public Accountants, Judicial Scrivener, medical doctor's license, pharmacist's license, etc.
- ◆ Make decisions as to where to live, and whether or not to go on to higher education, or get a job legally.
- ◆ The age at which women can marry has been raised from 16 to 18, so both men and women will be able to marry at 18 years old.
- ◆ Get a passport with a validity period of 10 years (Japanese nationals)

#### What people will be permitted to do upon turning 20 (no change)

- ◆ Drink alcohol
- ◆ Smoke
- ◆ Buy ballots for horse racing, bicycle racing, motorcycle racing, and boat racing
- ◆ Obtain a large motor vehicle license and or a mid-sized motor vehicle license (Getting a class one driver's license is still the same as before as turning 18 years old or older.)



Lowering the adult age will affect some Statutes of Residence. The definition of "minor" as stipulated in Long-Term Resident Notice No. 6 will be changed from under 20 years old to under 18 years old from April 1, 2022. Therefore, as of this date, those over the age of 18 will not be able to get permission to change their Status of Residence to a "Long-Term Resident" as a "minor/unmarried biological child". They will also not be able to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility. This will not affect those with a "Long-Term Resident" Status of Residence who have departed Japan with re-entry permission (including special re-entry permission).

For more details, please check the Immigration Service Agency of Japan website:

[https://www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/procedures/index\\_zn3.html](https://www.isa.go.jp/en/applications/procedures/index_zn3.html)



## “Fukuoka and me”

In this section, we will introduce a foreign national living in Fukuoka.



### Interview with Jiang Jing, Chinese school manager from China

#### ■ Q1. Could you please tell us what brought you to Fukuoka and or Japan?

I came to Japan on the occasion of my marriage in 2000 and have been living in Fukuoka ever since. I like Fukuoka very much, and like most people in Fukuoka, I always order burdock tempura when I eat Udon, noodles cooked hard when I eat ramen, and I wait in the queue to buy mini croissants when I go to Hakata station. Fukuoka city is my second home.

#### ■ Q2. What kind of activities (work, etc.) are you currently doing in Fukuoka?

Currently, I work as the representative of a Chinese school called Beijing Nihao Chinese Center. The Beijing Nihao Chinese Center offers courses such as Chinese translation and interpretation, and preparation for the Chinese National Government Licensed Guide Interpreter exams, in addition to Chinese classes from beginner to advanced levels. Also, there are special courses to introduce traditional Chinese culture and art, such as erhu, Chinese tea, and cuisine.

Due to the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, school lessons have changed from traditional face-to-face lessons to a blend of face-to-face and online lessons.

There are various age groups of students, from 3 to 80 years old, and with various profiles such as office workers, housewives, and students. They are from Fukuoka and all over Japan, and even from overseas, due to the implementation of online classes. For example, students in Aomori, Tokyo, Okinawa, etc., and from overseas, people are in Thailand and China are taking classes.

In addition to education and academic affairs, I am also involved in activities to promote Hakata culture outside Japan. I supported the opening of Hakata ramen restaurants in Beijing and Shanghai in China and Vancouver in Canada to introduce Hakata's food culture to communities there. I am working to popularize it.

#### ■ Q3. How have you overcome any difficulties or obstacles in your activities or life?

I am a single mother, and I work alone in a foreign country while raising two children. It has been difficult both in terms of life and work. Fortunately, I met a lot of kind people, such as Chinese school students, colleagues at work, and friends around me. Their encouragement and support has helped me overcome the difficulties one by one.

In addition, the spread of the novel coronavirus infection made face-to-face lessons difficult. Because of this, I tried online lessons and gained the support of and high evaluation from the students. I received great courage and motivation from the students. I think this is the reason why I have been doing well until today.

#### ■ Q4. What are your thoughts on your current life in Fukuoka?

I love Fukuoka. I like the living environment and food culture, but I think the biggest reason I like Fukuoka is the people of Fukuoka. Thanks to the support of the people around me, especially the students of the Chinese language school, my work is fun and fulfilling every day.

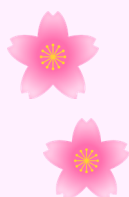
#### ■ Q5. Could you please tell our readers if you have any more messages?

The only advice I can give to foreigners living in Fukuoka like myself, is not to act or be overly aware that you are a foreigner and not to be isolated from others, and try to blend in with your surroundings. To make your life in Fukuoka happier and more fulfilling, it is necessary to understand the differences between Japanese and your home cultures, and to actively integrate into Japanese society and culture. Once again, I would like to thank my Japanese friends in Fukuoka, especially the students at my school. I want to thank them for their continuous support. I will continue to do my best.

### Cherry blossom viewing spots in Fukuoka city

In addition to Nishi Park, which has been selected as one of Japan's Top 100 Cherry Blossom Spots, and Maizuru Park, which is a signature cherry blossom viewing spot, here is a list of places where you can enjoy cherry blossoms in April in each ward.

Ward in Fukuoka city	Park names and addresses
Higashi ward	Najima shrine, 1-26-1 Najima
Nishi ward	Atago shrine, 2-7-1 Atago
	Nishi Park, 13 Nichi-kouen
Jonan ward	Ipponmatsu-gawa-ryokudo, 1-13 Tsutsumi
Sawara ward	Muromigawa Kahan Park, 5 Minamisho
Chuo ward	Minami Park, 1-1 Minami-kouen
Minami ward	Noma Oike Park, 1-1 Yanagouchi
	Aburayama Citizen's Forest and Shizen Kansatsu no Mori, 855-1 Hibarui
Hakata ward	Higashi Hirao Park, 2-1-2, Higashihirao-Koen
	Reisen Park, 7 Kamikawabata-machi





## Moving home

April in Japan is a time for new beginnings: whether moving home or starting a new job or academic year. Here is a list of things to do when you move. If you have any questions about moving, please contact us.

Things to do before and after moving:

Before moving home	After you have moved in (within 2 weeks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cancel or transfer your old utilities such as water, electricity, and gas to your new place</li> <li>✓ Get your mail re-directed</li> <li>✓ Tell your banks and insurance company about the move</li> <li>✓ *File a notification of moving out at the ward office</li> <li>✓ Notify a change of address for Child allowance and or Long-term care insurance at your ward office</li> <li>✓ Notify your school of transferring due to change of address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ *File a notification of change of address or a notification of moving in at the new ward office</li> <li>✓ Submit a school transfer notification at your new school</li> <li>✓ Update your driver's license and vehicle registration</li> <li>✓ File a notification of change of address of your pet dog at the new ward office</li> </ul>

### <Moving within the same ward in Fukuoka city>

\*After moving, file a notification of change of address (転居届 Tenkyo todoke) at your ward office.

### <Moving into a different ward in Fukuoka city or out of Fukuoka city>

\*After moving, file a notification of moving in (転入届 Tennyu todoke) at the new ward office or city hall.

### <Moving out of Fukuoka city>

\*Before moving, submit a notification of moving out (転出届 Tenshutsu todoke) at your ward office.

Also please update your Individual Number Card address when you move.

You can submit a notification of moving out online. There are some conditions to meet in order to be able to do so. Please check the QR code for more information:



### Administrative procedure when leaving Japan

#### At the ward office:

Settle resident tax (full payment required before departure)

Apply for a lump sum payment for national pension

Submit a notification of moving out (you cannot submit online when leaving Japan)

#### At a local tax office:

Settle income tax (File final income tax return and Year-end tax adjustment)

#### Bank:

Close your bank accounts

#### Other:

Settle any due payment such as water, electricity, gas, mobile phone bills

Other procedures required by the country you are moving to

Here is a website and QR code about moving:

#### Our website:

<http://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-information/living/moving/>



#### Fukuoka city website QR code:

Also, you can get advice on housing issues such as building a house, renting, and remodeling.

A construction advisor is available. Please check the website:

<https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/jutaku-toshi/jigyochosei/life/soudan/3.html>



## Specialized Counseling Services at Fukuoka City International Center

### Legal Counseling

April 2nd and 20th  
May 7th and 18th  
June 4th and 15th

1st Saturday 10:30 ~ 13:30  
3rd Wednesday 13:00 ~ 16:00

Appointment: Required

An interpreter is available upon request

### Immigration, Residency, and Nationality

April 10th, May 8th and June 12th

2nd Sunday 13:00 ~ 16:00  
(Reception until 15:30)

Appointment: Not required

English & Chinese interpreters are available.

### Personal (Psychological) Counseling

Monday 9:00 ~ 17:45  
Tuesday 9:00 ~ 11:45  
Thursday 9:00 ~ 12:45

Appointment: Required  
An English speaking professional is available.